

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

D.T.E. 04-52

FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS TO
THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 1.06(6)(c), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“Department”) submits to the Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire” or “Company”) the following Information Requests.

Instructions

The following instructions apply to this set of Information Requests and all subsequent Information Requests issued by the Department to the Company in this proceeding.

1. Each request should be answered in writing on a separate, three-hole punch page with a recitation of the request, a reference to the request number, the docket number of the case and the name of the person responsible for the answer.
2. Do not wait for all answers to be completed before supplying answers. File the responses as they are completed but no later than the close of business on **July 16, 2004.**
3. These requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require further supplemental responses if the respondent or its witnesses receive or generate additional information within the scope of these requests between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.
4. The term “document” is used in its broadest sense and includes, without limitation, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, phono-records, microfilm, microfiche, computer printouts, correspondence, handwritten notes, records or reports, bills, checks, articles from journals or other sources and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and all copies of such documents that bear notations or other markings that differentiate such copies from the original.
5. If any one of these requests is ambiguous, notify the Hearing Officer so that the request may be clarified prior to the preparation of a written response.
6. Please serve one (1) original copy of the responses on Mary Cottrell, Secretary of the Department, and one (1) copy to each party on the latest service list. Also submit eight (8) copies of the responses to Jesse S. Reyes, Hearing Officer. Nonproprietary

responses should also be submitted electronically by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us and to all persons on the service list.

7. Responses for which the Company seeks protective treatment should be marked confidential, along with an attached motion for protective treatment, and submitted to the Hearing Officer. Redacted copies should be filed with the Secretary.

Information Requests

- DTE-1-1 Refer to the Company's May 14, 2004 filing ("Filing"), Attachment 6 (Customer Bill Impacts). For each rate class in which any rate component increases by more than 1.66 percent, please verify whether the rate component changes indicated in Attachment 6 accurately reflect the Company's proposed rate changes. If those increases are accurate, please provide a recalculation of each rate component to reallocate the price cap increase within the rate class, such that no rate component increases by more than 1.66 percent. See Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56, at 26-27 (2002).
- DTE-1-2 Refer to the Filing, Attachment 3 (PBR Rate Design). Please explain why the sum of total residential rate classes' proposed revenues, on page 4, column 9, line 15 (\$15,839,289) and total commercial and industrial rate classes' proposed revenues, on page 8, column 9, line 18 (\$7,359,282) does not equal the total Company proposed revenues on page 8, column 9, line 22 (\$27,577,740).
- DTE-1-3 Refer to the Filing, at 3, ¶ 1, describing the Company's telephone system for which the Company is seeking exogenous cost recovery. Please describe the process employed by the Company in selecting the vendor for the telephone system upgrades and selecting the upgrades implemented. Please provide competing quotations and materials or brochures obtained by the Company and identify other telephone systems, if any, examined by the Company. Additionally, please provide copies or workpapers of any analyses that examined the business cases between leasing and purchasing the telephone system.
- DTE-1-4 Refer to the Filing, Supplemental Schedule 3, at 11. Please provide invoices and other data supporting the proposed \$292,747 exogenous cost recovery for the Company's telephone system. Also, explain why the cost of "Total Nortel Networks Converged Technology Solution" is listed as \$194,950 on page 11, while the Company seeks to recover \$292,747 in exogenous costs for the system.

- DTE-1-5 Refer to the Filing, Supplemental Schedule 3, at 2. Please provide all invoices for services provided by ACP Engineering that are listed on the referenced schedule.
- DTE-1-6 Refer to the Filing, at 3, ¶ 2, describing the Company's security measures for which it is seeking exogenous cost recovery of \$173,675. Please describe and provide a copy of all supplemental data on the legislative and regulatory changes (including statutory citations) that require the Company to incur \$173,675 to implement security measures.
- DTE-1-7 Is the additional depreciation deduction for certain qualified property provided by the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 104-107, § 101, 16 Stat. 21, 22-25 (codified at 26 U.S.C. § 168(k)) applicable to the Company's plant? Did the Company take such a deduction?
- DTE-1-8 Please indicate and provide all supporting data for the total tax relief that inures to the Company as a result of the tax code changes of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 cited in Information Request DTE-1-7, above? Please discuss whether the effect of this tax code change meets the requirements of an exogenous credit under the Company's PBR plan?